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IN THIS EDITION

News Releases specific to NE Iowa:
- Start the New Year with a Farm Succession Plan
- Wiemerslage wins Friend of the Family Farmer award
- Leftovers App Gets Reminder Update
- Donate Grain and Invest in Iowa’s #1 Crop: Youth
- Yard and Garden: Christmas Trees

News Release
Contact: Kristin Schulte, Farm Mgt Specialist, kschulte@iastate.edu, 563-547-3001

Start the New Year with a Farm Succession Plan

A family business, whether a dairy farm or a main street business, represents a lifetime of hard work and a commitment to a certain lifestyle, often times spanning generations. Good communication and planning make the transition from one generation to the next move smoothly and more successfully.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will host a Farm Succession Planning Workshop on January 27-28 to help families begin those conversations and start putting transition plans on paper. The workshop will be held at the Heritage Events Center in Cresco.

The Farm Succession Planning Workshop is a multi-generational event for exiting owners and spouses, and succeeding owners and spouses. The workshop will be conducted on two consecutive partial days to better accommodate rural families and provide time to initiate conversations and written plans. Watch this video to see how this workshop guided one Iowa family through the process.

The workshop instructors will be from the Beginning Farmer Center: David Baker, Farm Transition Specialist and John R. Baker, attorney at law. Click here to download a poster, brochure and program agenda.

Space is limited to the first twelve farming operations to register. Families interested in participating should contact the Howard County ISU Extension office at 563-547-3001 or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/howard for more information.

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News Release
Contact: Sue DeBlieck, sue@iowafarmersunion.org, (800) 775-5227

Wiemerslage wins Friend of the Family Farmer award
Teresa Wiemerslage, program and communication coordinator for the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in Northeast Iowa, received a Friend of the Family Farmer Award.

Wiemerslage is one of nine individuals who were honored for their work in support of Iowa's rural communities and family farmers at the Iowa Farmers Union's Annual Convention.

The event, co-sponsored by ISU's Sustainable Agriculture Student Association, was held Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Iowa State University Memorial Union. Close to 100 Iowans gathered to discuss the state and federal policies that affect their farm operations and rural communities. The awards ceremony recognized those individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary efforts in support of family farms, local food and the growth of sustainable agriculture in the state over the past year.

"The Iowa Farmers Union is proud to honor and celebrate these individuals and the important role they have played in creating a more just and environmentally sound food system in Iowa this year," said Iowa Farmers Union President Chris Petersen.

Wiemerslage serves six counties in northeast Iowa and spends half of her time coordinating the Northeast Iowa Food & Farm Coalition. The coalition is part of the NE Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative which uses Farm to School activities to spearhead efforts in school districts across the region to install school gardens, increase local food purchases by schools for student lunch programs and enroll youth in local food organizations and student clubs.

Other winners in the seven categories include Sen. Joe Seng, of Davenport; Rep. Jack Drake, of House District 57; James Berge, of Kensett; Table Top Farm, of Nevada; Kathleen Masterson, of Iowa Public Radio; Angie Carter, of Iowa State University; and Jon Andelson, of Grinnell College.

The Iowa Farmers Union is a grassroots organization, founded in 1915, that empowers family farms through education, cooperation and legislation.

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Staff photo can be downloaded from: http://picasaweb.google.com/wiemer72/ISUExtensionRegion4ColumnMaterials#

Other Releases

Leftovers App Gets Reminder Update
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/leftovers-app-gets-reminder-update
A new tool — the recently updated “4-Day Throw Away” leftovers app — is available for families looking for an extra line of defense to protect themselves from bad leftovers. The app is available for iPhone®, iPad® and iPod touch® devices.

Donate Grain and Invest in Iowa’s #1 Crop: Youth
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/donate-grain-and-invest-iowa-youth
By donating grain, farmers can support Iowa's number one crop, youth, say officials with the Iowa 4-H Foundation. Donations to the Iowa 4-H Foundation can be designated to county 4-H endowments, for statewide use or for both purposes.

Yard and Garden: Christmas Trees
http://www.extension.iastate.edu/article/yard-and-garden-christmas-trees
Buying local often times means buying locally grown food, but in December, it can also mean buying a Christmas tree from a local grower. More than 35 million Christmas trees are harvested each year in the U.S. Get tips for selecting, caring for and disposal of fresh trees.
This information has been sent to you by Teresa Wiemerslage, Regional Communications Coordinator for Region 4 ISU Extension, wiemer@iastate.edu, 563-794-0599.

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